

Application No. 10/723,974  
Amendment dated 9 September 2005  
Reply to Office Action dated 9 March 2005

Attorney Docket No. 5703-00059

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended): A housing for an inflatable restraint system, comprising:  
a plurality of retainer panels attachable to form a substantially rectangular retainer body for receipt of a folded inflatable restraint cushion, wherein at least one of said panels includes a plurality of projecting hooks; and  
5 a plastic adapter comprising wall portions positionable around the retainer body, and a flange projecting substantially perpendicular to said wall portions;  
wherein at least one of said wall portions includes a plurality of apertures for receipt of said hooks, said apertures having widths greater than a width of said hooks to allow relative movement therebetween, and said adapter comprises five wall portions  
10 defining a substantially rectangular shape with a discontinuous periphery.
2. (currently amended): The housing of claim 1, further comprising a metal reinforcing plate attached to at least one of said wall portions.
3. (currently amended): The housing of claim 2, wherein said adapter is overmolded ~~with~~ about said plate.
- 15 4. (cancelled)

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5. (currently amended): An adapter for attaching an airbag retainer to an instrument panel in a vehicle, comprising:

a molded plastic body having a plurality of integral planar wall portions adapted to attach with a substantially rectangular airbag retainer; and

a substantially planar flange projecting outwardly from said wall portions, said flange adapted to attach with a vehicle instrument panel;

wherein said molded plastic body includes a discontinuous periphery and said molded plastic body includes an opening therethrough at least partially defined by at least one of said wall portions and said flange.

6. (currently amended): ~~The~~ An adapter of claim 5 for attaching an airbag retainer to an instrument panel in a vehicle, comprising:

a molded plastic body having a plurality of integral planar wall portions adapted to attach with a substantially rectangular airbag retainer, wherein said plurality of wall portions includes:

a first side wall having a plurality of apertures formed therein for receipt of hooks; and

a second and a third side wall positioned opposite said first side wall, each of said second and third side walls having a least one aperture formed therein for receipt of hooks; and

a substantially planar flange projecting outwardly from said wall portions, said flange adapted to attach with a vehicle instrument panel;

wherein said molded plastic body includes a discontinuous periphery.

7. (currently amended): The adapter of claim 6, wherein each of said second and third side walls includes a single aperture formed therein.

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8. (currently amended): The adapter of claim 5, wherein said plurality of wall portions includes:

a first side wall having a substantially constant height; and

second and third sidewalls oriented substantially perpendicular to said first sidewall and  
5 attached at opposite ends thereof, said second and third sidewalls having heights  
decreasing in a direction away from said first sidewall.

9. (currently amended): An inflatable restraint system for a motor vehicle, comprising:

a retainer with a plurality of attachable panels and a plurality of attachment hooks  
projecting from at least one of said panels;

10 an inflatable restraint device positioned in said retainer;

a gas generator operable to provide an inflation gas to said inflatable restraint device; and

an adapter for attaching said retainer to a vehicle instrument panel, said adapter comprising  
a peripheral wall with a plurality of apertures for receipt of said hooks, and a flange  
projecting substantially perpendicular to said peripheral wall, wherein said adapter  
15 comprises an opening therethrough, wherein said opening is at least partially defined  
by at least one of said peripheral wall and said flange, and said inflatable restraint  
device is adapted to deploy through said opening.

10. (currently amended): The inflatable restraint system of claim 9, wherein said adapter  
defines a portion of a rectangle having a gap formed along one side thereof, said gap  
20 facilitating flexing of said adapter.

11. (currently amended): The inflatable restraint system of claim 9, wherein said adapter  
comprises:

a first side wall having a plurality of apertures; and

25 second and third side walls each having at least one aperture, wherein said second  
and third side walls are each opposite to said first side wall.

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12. (currently amended): The inflatable restraint system of claim 11, further comprising a metallic reinforcing plate attached along said first side wall, said plate having a plurality of apertures substantially aligning with the apertures formed in said first side wall.

13. (currently amended): The inflatable restraint system of claim 12, wherein said adapter is formed having apertures sized such that said adapter is movable relative to said retainer when engaged therewith.

14. (currently amended): An adapter for a vehicle air bag housing, comprising:  
a first peripheral wall defining an at least partially enclosed ~~cross-sectional area~~ opening through which an inflating airbag may be projected, wherein said opening extends through said adapter and said first peripheral wall is adapted to engage with at least one mounting members in a vehicle dashboard; and  
a second peripheral wall depending from said first peripheral wall and adapted to engage with an airbag housing.

15. (currently amended): The adapter of claim 14, wherein said first peripheral wall is substantially planar and oriented substantially perpendicular to said second peripheral wall.

16. (currently amended): The adapter of claim 15, wherein said first peripheral wall defines a substantially rectangular ~~cross-section~~ opening.

17. (currently amended): ~~The~~ An adapter of claim 16 for a vehicle air bag housing, comprising:

a first peripheral wall defining an at least partially enclosed cross sectional area through which an inflating airbag may be projected, said first peripheral wall adapted to engage with at least one mounting member in a vehicle dashboard, wherein said first peripheral wall defines a substantially rectangular cross section and said first peripheral wall comprises a discontinuous substantially rectangular cross section; and

a second peripheral wall depending from said first peripheral wall and adapted to engage with an airbag housing, wherein said first peripheral wall is substantially planar and oriented substantially perpendicular to said second peripheral wall.

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18. (currently amended): The adapter of claim 14, wherein said second peripheral wall defines a ~~space having a substantially rectangular cross-section~~ opening.

19. (currently amended): The adapter of claim 18, wherein said second peripheral wall comprises a plurality of integral wall portions arranged in a rectangular shape, said second peripheral wall adapted to attach at least partially inside walls of an airbag housing.

20. (currently amended): The adapter of claim 18, wherein said second peripheral wall comprises a ~~discontinuous periphery~~ substantially rectangular cross-section.

21. (currently amended): The adapter of claim 18, wherein said second peripheral wall comprises a plurality of integral wall portions arranged in a substantially rectangular fashion.

22. (currently amended): The adapter of claim ~~15~~ 14, wherein said first peripheral wall defines a plane that slopes relative to said second peripheral wall.

23. (currently amended): The adapter of claim 14, wherein the first peripheral wall extends outwardly relative to the second peripheral wall.

24. (currently amended): A method of mounting an airbag retainer for an inflatable occupant restraint system in a motor vehicle, comprising the steps of:

molding a plastic adapter having a mounting flange and at least one sidewall depending from the flange, wherein the sidewall is adapted to attach with an airbag retainer and said plastic adapter incorporates an opening therethrough, wherein said opening is at least partially defined by at least one of said mounting flange and said sidewall;

attaching the molded plastic adapter to an airbag retainer for housing a folded airbag, wherein said folded airbag is adapted to deploy through said opening; and

mounting the airbag retainer in a vehicle via an engagement of the mounting flange with mounting members in an instrument panel in the vehicle.

25. (currently amended): The method of claim 24, wherein the step of attaching the molded plastic adapter to an airbag retainer comprises flexing the plastic adapter to accommodate the airbag retainer inside a periphery of the sidewall.